

in September and a return to drier than normal conditions for October. The Climate Prediction Center of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration also reports that drought is expected to continue through mid-2000.

A forest's best bet for surviving too little rain, too much rain, ice storms, tornadoes, wildfires, insects and diseases is

to stay healthy enough to resist damaging effects of change. The forest landowner's best insurance policy is to seek professional forestry assistance, develop a sound management plan and follow that plan "come rain or come shine."

Sources of Information

University of Georgia College of

Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Georgia Cooperative Extension Systems

Forest Owner's Guide to the Federal Income Tax 1995

North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service publication numbers AG-519-9, AG-519-3, AG-519 and AG-518-2
Old Farmer's Almanac 2000 ☞

Educational Grant Proposals Being Accepted

Forestry tag sales continue to be successful, which results in monies available to fund forestry educational projects. The Forest Stewardship Education Committee is now accepting grant proposals through May 25, 2000. **Grant proposals must be post-marked no later than May 25, 2000.**

Since the forestry tag went on sale January 1, 1997, the Committee has approved more than \$480,000 in grants for various forestry projects throughout the state. If you know of groups or organizations that need financial assistance in implementing forestry programs, you can request a grant proposal form by sending your name and address to Anita W. Benton, Forestry Tag Coordinator, P.O. Box 302550, Montgomery, AL 36130, or you can e-mail her at BentonA@forestry.state.al.us.



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- ☐ Cost: \$50 above fee required by law for regular license plates.
- ☐ No additional cost for personalization.
- ☐ The additional \$50 is a charitable contribution and is tax deductible.
- ☐ Proceeds will be used for educational projects that promote healthy and productive forests, clean water, and abundant wildlife.

NEWS BRIEFS

USDA-NRCS

Robert N. Jones has been selected State Conservationist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Alabama. In the position, Jones will be responsible for the agency's natural resource conservation activities in partnership with Alabama's 67 soil and water conservation districts. Jones replaces Ronnie Murphy, who retired from the agency in October 1999.

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

The Game and Fish Division has officially changed its name to the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries.

The name change was made to more accurately reflect the work performed by the division. For many years the division was involved primarily with enforcement, game management and restocking programs. Today, they are involved in nongame protection and proliferation, conservation education and outreach programs, hunter safety education and many other projects. Since the division is not involved in saltwater fisheries management, the distinction needed to be made between fresh and saltwater fisheries.

In another announcement, M.N. "Corky" Pugh has been named as head of the Division of Wildlife and

Freshwater Fisheries. Pugh, who had served as assistant director since 1993, replaces long-time director Charles Kelly, who retired last year.

USDA-Forest Service

Jim Gooder, a 22-year veteran of the Forest Service, has been named as the new forest supervisor for the National Forests in Alabama. The National Forests in Alabama includes the Bankhead, Conecuh, Talladega and Tuskegee National Forests. Gooder replaces John Yancy, who accepted a position with the U.S. Park Service last year. ☞